

# Indicts Twelve In Big Liquor Plot at Shore

## U. S. Jury Acts on Five Plants at Long Branch, Shrewsbury, Cliffwood

One of the largest liquor conspiracy cases in New Jersey prohibition history was disclosed when the Federal Grand Jury returned six indictments yesterday afternoon against twelve men charged with operating five large distilling plants in Long Branch, Shrewsbury and Cliffwood. The five plants had a daily capacity of more than 16,000 gallons of alcohol.

For several months the activities of the defendants have been under investigation by the government. Last April some of the facts were presented to the grand jury but no action was taken. It was said at the time that certain facts were not clear to members of the jury panel and it was felt that more information should be made available by the federal prohibition authorities.

United States District Attorney Philip Forman was asked by the jurors to have Captain Edward S. Ross, prohibition administrator for New Jersey, and other agents summoned before the body. The examination of these men was conducted by Mr. Forman.

Mr. Forman was told by several members of the jury that they had heard rumors that Prohibition Agent James had been transferred from Newark to Chicago after he had been insistent on getting all of the facts in the case. James was credited with saying that "if I had been left on the case we would have gotten these places right."

### Six Are Arrested.

With the additional information obtained from Captain Ross and his aides the indictments were prepared. They were handed to Federal Judge Fake. Five of the indictments charge individual groups among the twelve defendants with illegally manufacturing liquor and the sixth charges the twelve men with conspiracy to violate the national prohibition act.

Among the twelve men under indictment are Morris and Isidore Schneider, David Pinsky, Joseph Bender, Joseph Tomaini and Charles Petti, all of Long Branch. These men have been taken into custody.

Three plants were operated in Long Branch, it is charged, with stills up to 1,000 gallons capacity. In the Cliffwood plant it is alleged that two 2,000-gallon stills were operated and in the Shrewsbury plant the agents confiscated three 3,000-gallon stills. The distilling equipment was valued at several hundred thousand dollars.

The indictments were handed to the court along with a presentment in which the grand jury urged the prohibition authorities to get the principals in liquor cases rather than the underlings.

## Seven Are Nabbed At Big Beer Plant

A large beer plant at Trenton which had a refrigerator for cooling beer for immediate delivery within the vicinity was raided by Federal prohibition agents yesterday. Seven men were arrested loading three trucks which were seized with 125 barrels of beer. The place was at 105 Oakland avenue, Trenton.

Agents searching for liquor in the Combery Place Inn at 523 Brace avenue, Perth Amboy, after they had been served by a waiter, discovered two removable steps in the stairs leading to the second floor covered the hiding place. They arrested Alexander Rzygalenski of 195 Broad street, Perth Amboy.

A raid was made at the Plaza Hotel, Ocean and Bayway avenues, Long Branch, which was placed under a probationary decree April 5. A quantity of liquor was found. L. J. Kusters, legal adviser of the prohibition unit, said he would apply to United States District Attorney Forman to have the owner held in contempt.